or to traditional knowledge shall provide, as a condition to acquiring patent rights:

(i) disclosure of the source and country of origin of the biological resource and of the traditional knowledge used in the invention;

(ii) evidence of prior informed consent through approval of authorities under the relevant national regimes; and

(iii) evidence of fair and equitable benefit sharing under the national regime of the country of origin."

Growth of exports

17. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Associated Chambers of Commerce has undertaken a study on growth in exports;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether highest exports was to Asia and Oceania followed by North America, South America and Western European countries during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(d) the measures suggested to pick up exports to Africa and other regions, where decline in export has been reported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India had carried out a study titled, "Analysis of India's Export Growth Performance", in May, 2003 for the period April-November, 2002-03 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The salient features of the study are as follows:

1. Exports Growth to Asia & Oceania has been the highest followed by North America, Latin America, and Western Europe.
2. Exports to developing countries have increased more relative to developed/advanced economies.
3. There has been a surge in exports to Asian countries.

4. There has been a quantum jump in exports to China, Singapore, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and UAE whereas Bangladesh and Honkong have registered a decline.

5. United States continues to be the foremost destination for Indian exports.

6. In overall terms, during the period under study, India's exports have grown impressively by 18.05%.

(c) Regionwise exports of India as a percentage of total exports in Dollar terms and growth rate of exports are given below:

	2001-02 (% to total exports)	2002-03 (% to total exports)	Growth rate (%)
Asia & Oceania	38.54	42.85	(32.53)
North America	20.76	22.10	(26.91)
Latin America	2.18	2.45	(34.03)
Western Europe	24.13	23.37	(15.41)

(d) India's exports of merchandise goods to Africa in 2002-03 has not declined. Instead it has registered a growth of 8.24% in dollar terms as compared to the previous year. Programmes like "Focus-Africa" have been launched to further increase our exports.

Mutual recognition agreements between India and Singapore

18. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore are to enter into the mutual recognition agreements by the end of the year;

(b) if so, the details of the areas of cooperation;

(c) whether both the countries would develop Indo-Singapore dialogue mechanism to further promote investment and industrial cooperation; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan?